

Patient Safety Tips

- Make sure your physician is aware of any specialists or other doctors involved in your care.
- Be sure to inform all health professionals involved in your care about all your important health information.
- When you are admitted to the Palliative Care Unit, bring all your current medications with you and give them to your nurse.
- Ensure that your physician knows all the medications, herbal remedies, vitamins or supplements you are taking. Even over-the-counter medications can have an effect on prescription medications.
- Inform health care providers of any adverse reactions or allergies you have to food or medications.
- Be aware of your surroundings on the Palliative Care Unit—spills or equipment may cause you to slip or fall.
- Always wear non-slip footwear.
- Bring all items needed to safely get around, such as mobility devices, eye glasses, hearing aids etc.
- If you are being discharged or transferred from the Palliative Care Unit, ask that any treatment plans or instructions be written out for you and shared with your family doctor

Safety Tips for Family and Visitors

- Wash your hands or use an alcohol based rub when you visit the Palliative Care Unit
- Before offering a patient food or liquids be sure to check with the nurse in case of dietary restrictions, changes in swallowing ability, or allergies.
- When visiting a patient's room, place jackets, purses, and other items out of the way. Do not leave shopping bags or other items on the floor where someone might trip over them.
- If you bring a pet to the patient's room, be sure to keep the pet leashed at all times and in your care to ensure that the pet is not under-foot.
- If visiting a patient in an isolation room, carefully read all signage and information posted outside the room, and follow all instructions indicated at all times.



saskhealthauthority.ca

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www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/palliative-care

A Safe Place for All

How you can help



"Green Skies and Purple Seas Sunset"
courtesy of Gina De Gorna

Palliative Care Services



Saskatchewan
Health Authority

Safety is Everyone's Concern

Everyone can play a part in ensuring a safe environment on the Palliative Care Unit. Health care providers, patients, family and visitors all have a role in patient safety. This pamphlet will provide you with information about how you can help.

Falls Prevention

When admitted to the Palliative Care Unit, patients and/or family should:

- Ensure nursing staff are aware of any previous slips or trips resulting in a patient fall
- Bring all current medications from home and give them to your nurse
- Ensure patient call-bell is within reach
- Call for assistance when feeling weak or dizzy
- Use only non-slip footwear
- Bring to the hospital:
 - Glasses
 - Hearing aids
 - Mobility aids (cane, walker, wheelchair, other aids) that are used at home
- Keep hospital room free of clutter and trip hazards
 - Electrical cords
 - Personal belongings etc.

Infection Control

When visiting the Palliative Care Unit: Remember to clean your hands upon entering and leaving a patient's room, and upon entering and leaving the Palliative Care Unit. An alcohol-based hand rub is available for use at the entrance to the unit and outside each patient room.

When visiting a patient who has special isolation instructions posted by the door of the patient room be sure to follow the instructions completely and at all times.

These may include:

- Wearing a gown and gloves while you are in the patient's room
- Not touching the patient or equipment/ furniture in the room
- Not using the patient's bathroom
- Washing your hands or using alcohol based hand rub before and after putting on gloves



Always check the signage for specific infection control precautions, before entering the patient's room. If you have questions, please ask your nurse.

Medication Reconciliation

Medication Reconciliation is an important program that helps health care providers make knowledgeable decisions based on the complete information regarding medications you are presently using.

Medication Reconciliation reduces the number of medication errors associated with medication use.

To assist in this process, please bring in all the medications you are currently taking at home, including prescription medications, over the counter medications, supplements, vitamins, and herbal remedies.

Medication Administration

To achieve our goal of providing the right medication, to the right patient, at the right time, you can expect the following:

Before you are given any medication, the nurse will check your patient identification bracelet and verify that you are not allergic to the medication being given.

Your nurse will inform you of the name of the medication, what the medication is for, and the reason why you are taking the medication.

If you have any questions, please discuss them with your nurse or doctor.